

MY MONIKER IS JOE GRIFFITHS. MOST OF THE TIME THAT I SPENT IN THE YOK, I SPENT AS A SPORTS COACH. BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY TEAMS...I COACHED 'EM ALL!



AND I COACHED SOME GREAT INDIVIDUALS AS WELL. BOB ADAMS, "BUZZ" BROWN AND "GOLDIE" TALLMAN TO NAME A FEW. ALSO, I COACHED PHYLISS HASLAM, WHO IN 1934 BROKE WORLD SWIMMING RECORDS IN THE WOMEN'S 100 AND 200-YARD BREAST STROKE!



BUT I THINK THE ATHLETE WHO LEFT THE GREATEST IMPRESSION ON ME WAS ETHEL CATHERWOOD - THE SASKATOON LILY - WHO HELD THE WORLD RECORD FOR WOMEN'S HIGH JUMP, AND WHOM THE NEW YORK TIMES CALLED "THE PRETTIEST GIRL ATHLETE" AT THE 1928 AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC GAMES!



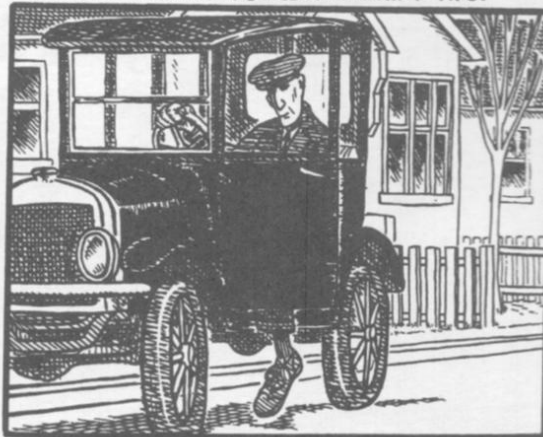
IT ALL BEGAN ONE EVENING IN THE FALL OF 1925. I WAS GLANCING THROUGH A NEWSPAPER WHEN I HAPPENED UPON THE RESULTS OF THE BEDFORD ROAD COLLEGIATE (A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL) SPORTS DAY!



I COULD NOT BELIEVE MY EYES! THE ITEM MENTIONED THAT ETHEL CATHERWOOD HAD BROKEN THE COLLEGIATE'S RECORD FOR HIGH JUMP WITH A LEAP OF FIVE FEET!



WHAT THE REPORTER WHO WROTE THE PIECE DIDN'T REALIZE WAS THAT FIVE FEET WAS AS HIGH AS ANY WOMAN ON EARTH HAD EVER JUMPED! IF THE OFFICIALS HAD MEASURED IT CORRECTLY, ETHEL WAS A WORLD CHAMPION!! FIRST THING THE NEXT DAY, I WENT TO HER HOUSE TO MEET HER PEOPLE AND VERIFY THIS.



I WAS ALMOST STRUCK DUMB WITH AMAZE-  
MENT WHEN I SAW THIS TALL BEAUTIFUL GIRL WALK IN!  
FROM THAT TIME ON, I BECAME HER SASKATOON COACH!



NOT THAT THERE WAS A HECK OF  
A LOT TO COACH! FOR EXAMPLE:  
I LATER FOUND OUT THAT ETHEL,  
A FEW YEARS EARLIER, HAD JUMPED FOUR  
FEET TEN INCHES AT HER GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL! THIS WAS THE SAME HEIGHT AS  
THE 'OFFICIAL' WORLD RECORD HELD BY  
ELISE CONSTANT OF FRANCE!



NEVERTHELESS, EVERY AFTERNOON I'D PICK ETHEL UP  
IN MY OLD MODEL 'T', AND DRIVE HER ACROSS THE RIVER TO  
THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS, WHERE WE DID OUR TRAINING!

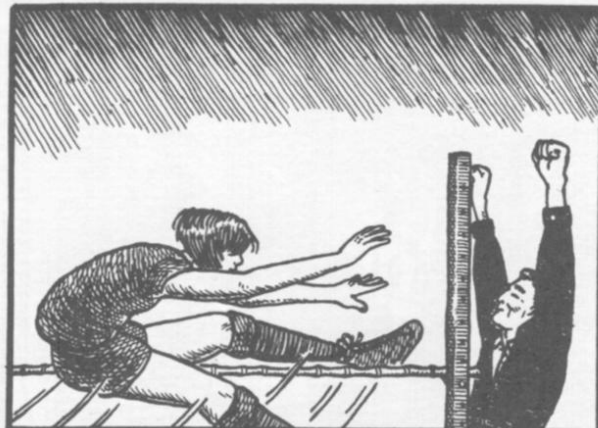
SO—YOU READY TO  
SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS TODAY?



...AND OF COURSE, ETHEL AND HER FATHER  
CONTINUED MAKING WAGERS AGAINST EACH  
OTHER IN THEIR CRAMPED BACK YARD!



I TRIED MY LEVEL BEST, IN OUR  
TRAINING SESSIONS, TO TEACH ETHEL  
THE "WESTERN ROLL" STYLE OF  
JUMPING — BUT SHE JUST COULDN'T  
GET THE HANG OF IT!



SO ETHEL WENT BACK TO THE OLD LAND-  
ON—YOUR-FEET "SCISSOR KICK" STYLE!  
LOOKING BACK, MAYBE IT WAS JUST AS WELL...  
IN THOSE DAYS, WE DIDN'T HAVE FOAM LANDING  
PADS OR ANYTHING! YOU COULD ALMOST SAY  
GETTING UP WASN'T THE MAIN THING TO WORRY  
ABOUT — IT WAS THE COMING DOWN!





ETHEL'S FIRST BIG MEET WAS THE 1926 LABOUR DAY PROVINCIAL TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP IN REGINA! SINCE WOMEN'S ATHLETICS WAS PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT IN THOSE DAYS, WE HAD TO ORGANIZE AN ENTIRE WOMAN'S HIGH JUMP EVENT JUST FOR ETHEL!

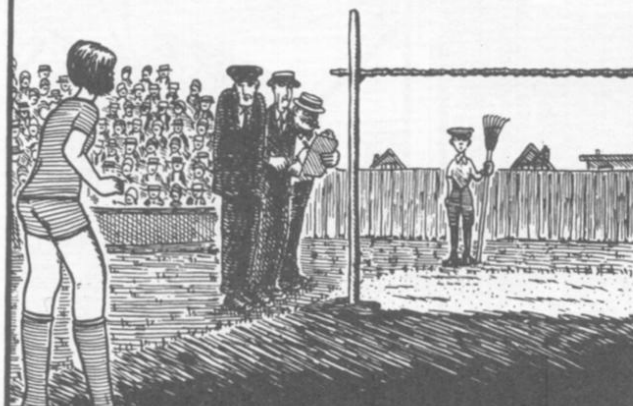


HOPING THE OFFICIATING IS GOING TO BE RIGHT ON THE MONEY, TOM! I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT ETHEL IS GOING TO DO BIG THINGS FOR US TODAY!

GOT YOUR CABLE, JOE! NOW, I'VE MANAGED TO ROUND UP SOME LOCAL GIRLS WHO ARE PRETTY FAIR JUMPERS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT!



THERE WERE OVER 1500 PEOPLE PACKED INTO THE STANDS THAT DAY, BUT IF ETHEL FELT ANY PRESSURE, SHE SURE DIDN'T SHOW IT! THE OPENING JUMP WAS 4'6", AND ETHEL SAILED OVER THAT LIKE IT WAS NOTHING! ONE BY ONE, —AS THE BAR INCHED HIGHER—THE OTHER COMPETITORS WERE ELIMINATED! ETHEL, JUMPING ALONE, WAS NOW GOING AFTER THE WORLD RECORD, HELD BY PHYLLIS GREEN OF BRITAIN! THE BAR WAS NOW AT 5'3"!!

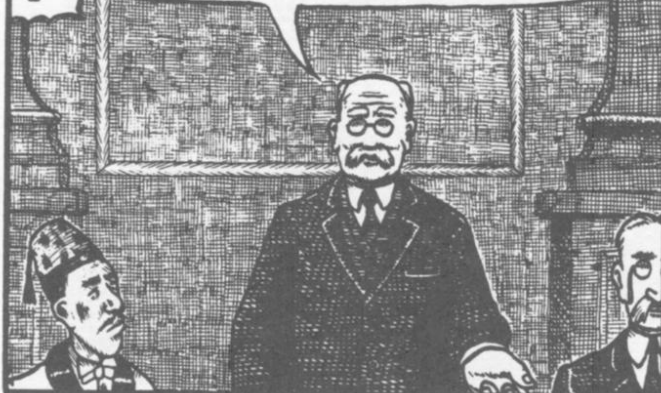


THE CROWD WENT WILD! PRECISE MEASUREMENT OF THE BAR SHOWED A HEIGHT OF 5'2 1/4"! IMMEDIATELY, A COLLECTION WAS TAKEN UP, AND OVER \$400 WAS RAISED TO SEND ETHEL TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TORONTO!



MEANWHILE

...IN THIS MATTER, WE MUST KEEP IN OUR MINDS THE IRREPARABLE PHYSICAL DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH WOMEN'S ATHLETICS, AND I'M REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO THE LOSS OF CHILD-BEARING ABILITY RESULTING FROM STRENUOUS ACTIVITY! THAT IS WHY, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR CANADA, I VOTE AGAINST THE PROPOSED INCLUSION OF WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS!



AT THE VERY SAME TIME AS ETHEL WAS SETTING RECORDS IN REGINA, THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION WAS DEBATING WHETHER TO INCLUDE WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD IN THE OLYMPICS! MANY PEOPLE WERE OPPOSED, INCLUDING, FOR ONE, THE POPE.

NO, I DON'T NEARLY OPPOSE IT, I **CONDEMN** IT!



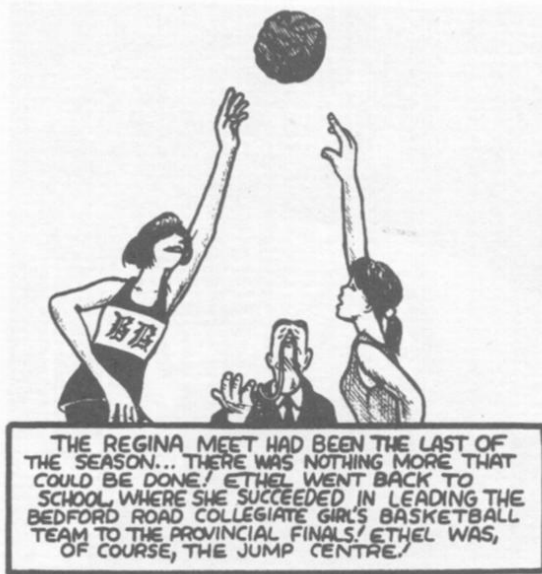
...AND THE FOUNDER OF THE MODERN OLYMPIC MOVEMENT, PIERRE, BARON DE COUBERTIN, WHO RAILED AGAINST THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES 'TILL HIS DYING DAY!

IT'S **TRES** INAPPROPRIATE! THE ANCIENT GREEKS WOULD'VE NEVER ALLOWED SUCH A THING!



BUT AT THE TIME, MY MAIN CONCERN WAS JUST TO KEEP ETHEL'S DESIRE TO MAKE THE NATIONAL TEAM UP AT THE BOILING POINT DURING THE LONG, COLD WINTER...







REMEMBER, THERE WEREN'T TOO MANY FEMALE ATHLETES AROUND IN THOSE DAYS! I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE HAD PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS OF WHAT A FEMALE ATHLETE WOULD LOOK LIKE—ALL TANNED AND MUSCLES—NOTIONS THAT ETHEL SHOOK! AT ANY RATE, THE PRESS HAD A FIELD DAY WITH HER!



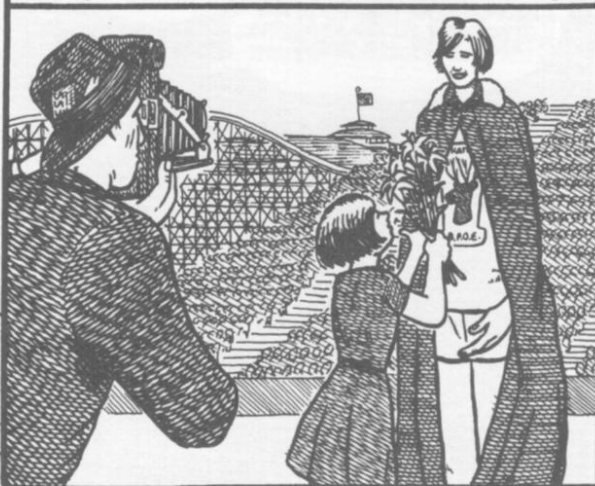
From the instant this tall, slim graceful girl from the prairies tossed aside her cloak of purple, and made her first leap, the fans fell for her.



A flower-like face of rare beauty above a long slim body simply clad in pure white...



She looked like a tall, strange lily and was immediately christened by the crowd 'The Saskatoon Lily.'



I DON'T KNOW IF I MENTIONED THIS, BUT THE NEW YORK TIMES CALLED ETHEL 'THE PRETTIEST OF ALL THE GIRL ATHLETES.' IT'S TRUE! YOU CAN LOOK IT UP!

WELL, I SUPPOSE EVERYONE WHO HASN'T BEEN LIVING IN A CAVE FOR THE PAST 37 YEARS IS WELL AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!

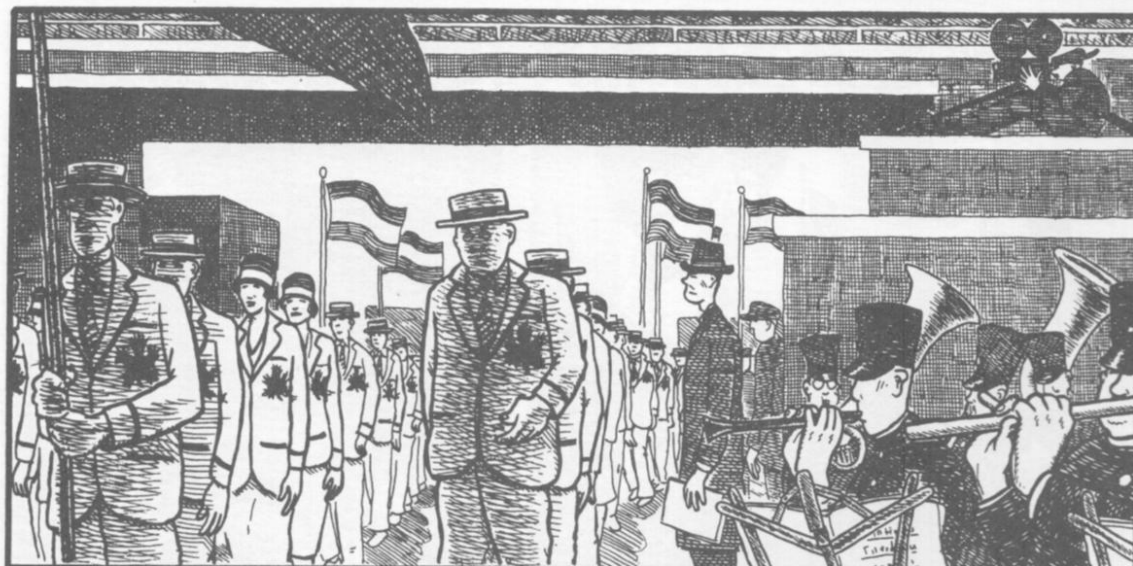
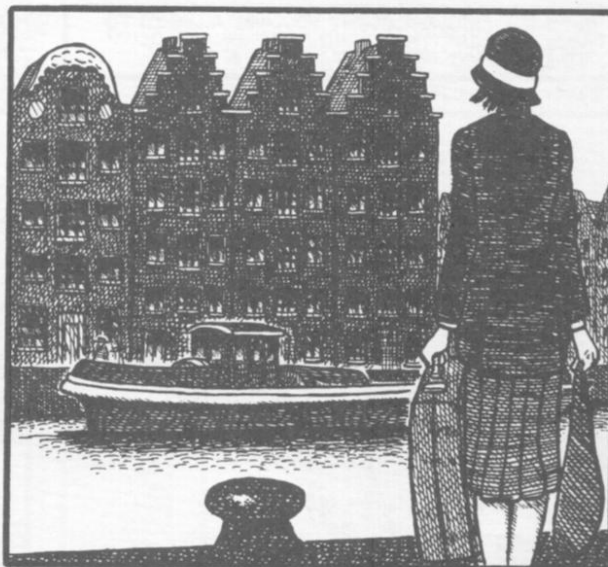
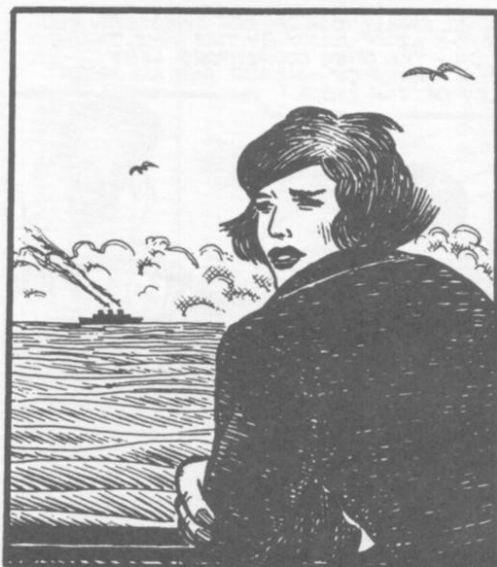
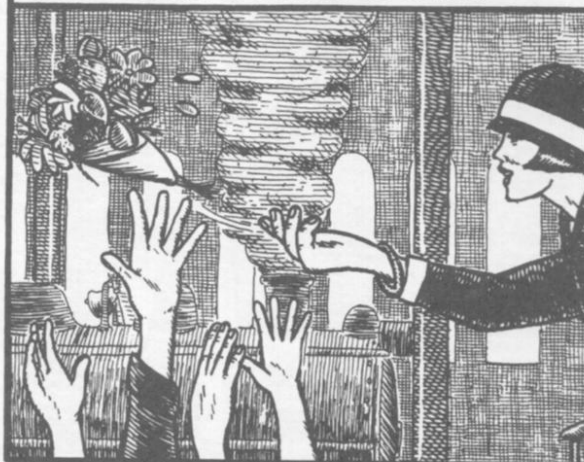


CONSTANT PRESSURE BY MADAME ALICE MILLET OF THE FEDERATION SPORTIVE FEMININE INTERNATIONALE FORCED THE OLYMPIC ORGANIZERS TO RECONSIDER!

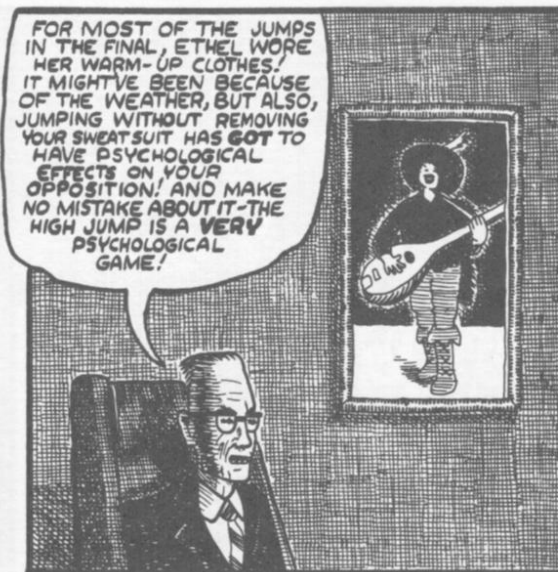
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! WE'LL TRY STAGING FIVE WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS THIS YEAR!



AND SO, SHORTLY, ETHEL WAS ON HER WAY TO THE 1928 OLYMPIC GAMES! THE SEND-OFF, AS SHE STARTED HER JOURNEY TO AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND, WAS NO SMALL BIT NOISIER THAN THE ONE THAT I GAVE HER JUST A FEW MONTHS EARLIER!



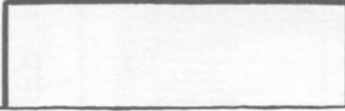
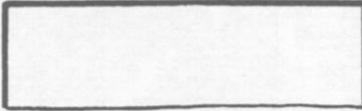




EVERYBODY, FROM TIME TO TIME, HAS DOUBTS ABOUT WHAT THEY DO!

...DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER IT'S REALLY WORTH THE INTENSITY AND HEARTACHE...

FOR ETHEL, THESE DOUBTS CAME AT EXACTLY THE WRONG MOMENT!!



HOWEVER, WHEN YOU OVERCOME THESE DOUBTS AND PRESSURES, YOU'LL FIND THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT SOMETHING OUT IN YOURSELF, SOMETHING THAT IS YOUR GREAT STRENGTH AND PURPOSE!

ETHEL CLEARED THE BAR AT 5 FEET 3 INCHES ON HER FIRST TRY! BOTH HER OPPONENTS FAILED...

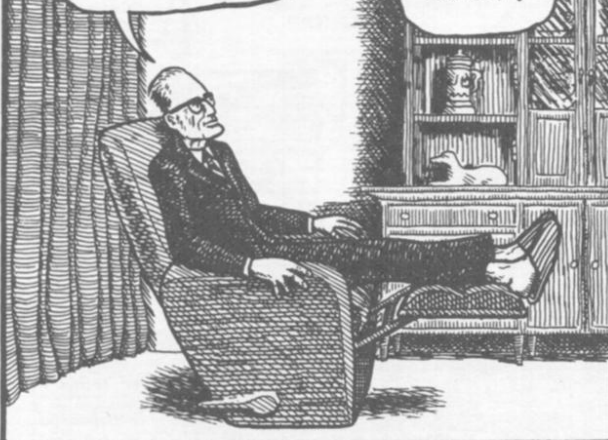


I WISH I HAD BEEN THERE! THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT ETHEL HAD RECEIVED A TREMENDOUS OVATION WITH THE COOL GRACE OF A MOVIE STAR, BOWING AND BLOWING KISSES TO THE STANDS!

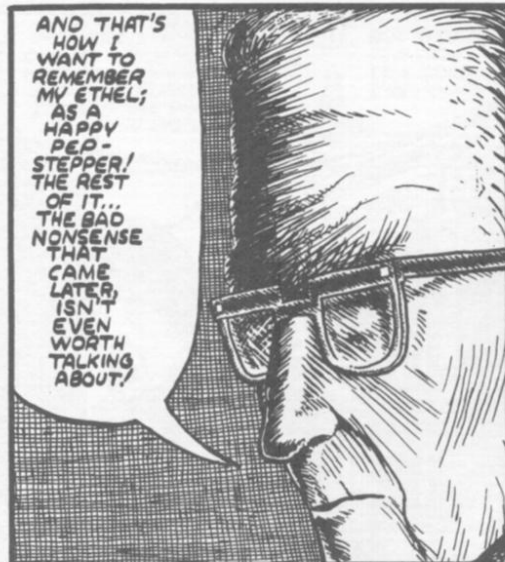


SO CHARMING! SO FULL OF LIFE! OH THAT ETHEL!...SHE HAD A RAG DOLL AND A UKULELE THAT SHE CARRIED EVERYWHERE!

I GUESS YOU YOUNG FOLKS NOWADAYS WOULD CALL HER "GROOVY"!!



AND THAT'S HOW I WANT TO REMEMBER MY ETHEL; AS A HAPPY PEP-STEPPER! THE REST OF IT... THE BAD NONSENSE THAT CAME LATER, ISN'T EVEN WORTH TALKING ABOUT!

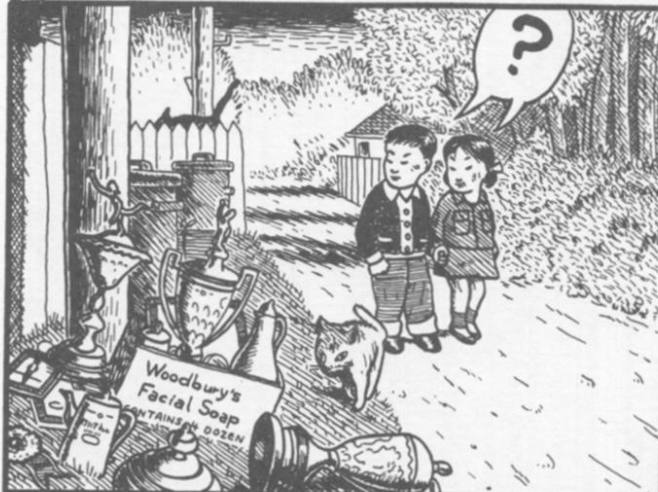




SHE WENT INTO SECLUSION IN 1932!



I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER LIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO... BUT I HAVE IT ON AUTHORITY FROM HER SISTER THAT ETHEL HAS THROWN OUT ALL HER TROPHIES, AWARDS AND MOMENTOS!



YES; EVEN HER OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL!





## **News Report – The Ethel Catherwood Story**

Using “The Ethel Catherwood Story,” write a **four paragraph** newspaper article about Ethel Catherwood. You will be marked on your use of content from the story, as well as your use of a newspaper report format.

Use this page to get started:

Think of a <b>TITLE</b> :
<b>WHO</b> was involved?
<b>WHAT</b> happened?
<b>WHEN</b> did it happen?
<b>WHERE</b> did it happen?
<b>WHY</b> did it happen?
<b>HOW</b> did it happen?
Pretend that you interviewed some people who were involved. What were their opinions on what happened? Write some <b>QUOTATIONS</b> :
What will happen next? ( <b>CONCLUDING STATEMENT</b> )